**ESSENTIAL QUESTIONS:**

How does deforestation affect people throughout the world? How can we curb population growth?

**OVERVIEW:**

As we enter the 21st century, one of the most pressing environmental problems is deforestation. Many of the world’s forests are being burned or cut down in order to make way for grazing and farming lands or new buildings and paved roads. If the deforestation continues at this rapid rate, the world’s forests will vanish in 100 years. This lesson encourages students to understand deforestation and its effects on people throughout the world. This lesson also encourages students to develop ways to curb deforestation.

**OBJECTIVES:**

1. Students will be able to understand the effects of deforestation on the environment.
2. Students will be able to understand the effects of deforestation on specific people.

**DIRECTIONS:**

Read the NASA Earth Observatory article on Tropical Deforestation. Use the directed reading guide to answer questions about the article as you read. (You might have a quiz on the information.)

Directed Reading Guide:

NASA's Earth Observatory – Tropical Deforestation: Guided Reading Questions

* 1. If the current rate of deforestation continues, how long will it take for the world’s rainforests to disappear?
  2. List and describe three ways that deforestation occurs.
  3. Why is deforestation present in countries such as Brazil and Bolivia?
  4. How does deforestation affect the global climate?
  5. How does deforestation relate to biodiversity?

**Extension Question** (required): Describe the following tree-harvesting methods:

* + 1. clear-cutting
    2. selective cutting
    3. shelterwood cutting
    4. seed-tree cutting
    5. strip cutting